



Minutes

RTDNA Board of Directors Meeting

📅 Wed September 22nd, 2021

🕒 2:00pm - 5:00pm EDT

📍 Mattie Silks, LL1 or Zoom (if not in attendance in Denver)

👥 In Attendance

Jack Acosta, Colin Benedict, Fiona Conway, Ellen Crooke, Scott Diener, Vince Duffy, Janice S. Gin, Lynn Hatter, Sherri Jackson, Alisha McDevitt, Allison McGinley, Sean McLaughlin, Lisa Polster, Tara Puckey, Jam Sardar, Tim Scheld, Jennifer Seelig, Dan Shelley, Terence Shepherd, Yvonne Simons, Andrea Stahlman, Robert Thomas, Loren Tobia, Kathy Walker, Sheryl Worsley, Kimberly Wyatt

I. Call to Order & Welcome

Walker gave a brief history lesson on the origin of our meeting room: Mattie Silks. Silks was a pioneering businesswoman, who is also known as being perhaps the first woman to win a duel.

a. Roll Call

b. Assignment of Minutes

Shepherd will take minutes.

II. 2020 Audit Presentations

****Must begin at 2:05 p.m. MDT***

Both RTDNA and RTDNF were presented with clean audits as document show. Tobia expressed just how impressive that truly is, especially in the midst of two very challenging years from an operations perspective. Shelley and Puckey

commended the board for being supportive throughout the pandemic and noted that we're in good financial shape because of our ability to be flexible and thoughtful.

a. **RTDNA 2020 Audit Presentation**

Audit presenters noted that it is unusual to have no financial changes, so that is commendable fact. You were very frugal to make sure you could outlast this covid environment. You have well above standards for undesignated reserves - funds needed in case of emergency.

Decision: Gin moved to accept the findings of the audit. Worsley seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent.

b. **RTDNF 2020 Audit Presentation**

Similar findings related to covid -- 8.7 months of available cash, which is much higher than the recommended 3-6 months.

Shelley also wants to give a shout out to Sarah Beck, our accountant.

Decision: Walker moved to accept the findings of the audio. Worsley seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent.

III. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Decision: Gin motioned to accept the minutes, Worsley seconded. Motion passes.

b. **June 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Decision: Scheld moved to accept the minutes as presented. Worsley seconded the motion. Motion passed with no dissent

c. **For the Record: Appointment Votes**

The Board of Directors voted digitally to appoint the following board positions on July 14, 2021:

- Region 4 Director: Colin Benedict
- Region 8 Director: Robert Thomas
- Region 2 Director: Jennifer Seelig

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d. **For the Record: RTDNA22 Location**

The Board of Directors voted digitally on August 30, 2021 to host the RTDNA22 conference in Indianapolis, Ind. in September 2022.

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IV. **Chair Report**

a. **Remarks**

New and veteran board members, please remember to support the organization through donations. Remember that some of your companies will match your donation. Later on we will have a conversation about the Murrow Gala. I encourage everyone to speak their minds about what would be best for the organization. Since I'm rolling off (as chair), thanks for all your contributions to the organization.

V. **Executive Director Report**

a. **VFA Update**

Regarding Right to Report, which is the first legislation pushed by RTDNA, after about a year of lobbying. There's now a court case, Frasier v. Evans, before the SCOTUS. Concerns lawsuit over a journalist recording police officers. The next scheduled SCOTUS docket is Oct. 8 but they could pick this up sooner. If they take the case, it will be a full stop on legislative efforts. If they don't take the case we will proceed.

We are still involved with New York Times, CBS and some press freedom groups to get Afghan nationals P-2 visas expedited to leave Afghanistan and allowed into the United States because their lives are at risk.

1. **Barefoot PR Introduction**

Sarah Hogan from Barefoot PR and Chris Pair, who handles legislative efforts have the floor.

They want to impart on us that the work Dan has done is nothing short of incredible. For a grassroots organization to have this level of visibility in DC is remarkable. It happens because Dan knocks on

doors, is a squeaky wheel. Once you have success on The Hill, people then gravitate toward you. Your partnership with NAB is crucial. We've done really well over the past year. You were a participant and an adviser but now we are seen as important *players*.

Sarah says VFA strategy might shift going into 2022: Maintaining Capitol Hill relationships while making new inroads on the state level.

VI. Chief Staff Officer Report

a. **RTDNA21 Conference Update**

Safety is an important component of the RTDNA22 conference. If you see someone without a badge, please notify staff. Feel empowered to ask someone to wear a mask. If you see them around several times, please notify staff.

We are right about 200 expected attendance.

Please stop by and thank sponsors for supporting RTDNA during these times.

We're putting together "Go-bags" as part of a service project connected with the local Dolores Project. It's Thursday 3 p.m. till 4 p.m. Everyone please bring an extra dose of grace, due to the newness of the conference. We have some new staffers for everyone to meet. The NextGen luncheon is Friday. It's an opportunity to recognize our scholarship and fellowship recipients.

b. **2021 Murrow Gala Update**

We are at Gotham Hall. Usually 550, capacity reduced to 400. Tables of 8 now, formerly tables of 10 or 12.

Discussion on pros and cons of holding the event.

Colin Benedict is concerned with the attendance number and wonders what would happen if we were to limit it to winners and a guest or two guests.

Tara says that would mean about 250 - more than half of a traditional year.

Decision: Vince Duffy moved that we cancel the in-person live Murrow Gala event. Jam Sardar seconded the motion.

Decision: Vince will entertain a friendly amendment. Sheryl Worsley admends that we move forward with an in person event but cap it at 250. Vince does not accept the amendment.

Decision: Roll call vote on the motion: Jack Acosta: yes. Colin Benedict: Yes. Ellen Crooke: yes. Scott Deiner: no. Vince Duffy: Yes. Janice Gin: Yes. Lynn Hatter: no. Sherrie Jackson: abstains. Mark Kraham: abstains. Alisha McDevitt: yes. Allison McGinley: No. Shaun McLaughlin : yes. Lisa Polster: No. Jam Sardar: No. Tim Scheld: No. Jennifer Seelig: yes. Terence Shepherd: No. Yvonne Sims: yes. Andrea Stahlman: Yes. Robert Thomas: No. Loren Tobia: Yes. Kathy Walker: No. Sheryl Worsley: No. Kimerly Wyatt: no.

Decision: Tie vote, so motion fails.

Decision: Sheryl Worsley moves that we cap Murrow Gala attendance at 250. Allison McGinley seconds the motion. After discussion, Sheryl withdraws motion.

Decision: Loren Tobia moves to direct staff to investigate event and come up with a recommendation to the executive committee by the end of next week based on board's concerns. Sheryl Worsley seconded the motion. Vince Duffy calls for a roll call vote. Jack: no. Collin: yes. Ellen: no. Scott: yes. Vince: yes. Janice: yes. Lynn: yes. Sherri: abs. Mark: abs. Alisha: abs. Allison: yes. Shawn: no. Lisa: yes. Jam: Yes. Tim: yes. Jennifer: yes. Terence: Yes. Yvonne: Yes. ANDrea: yes. Robert Yes Loren Yes Kathy: yes. Kimberly: yes.

c. **Foundation Updates**

- Received grants from TEGNA and Knight for the conference.
- Working on a substantial grant from Microsoft via the Trusted Journalism Project.
- Year-end appeal starting soon.
- Giving stats.

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Working on a substantial grant from Microsoft via the Trusted Journalism Project.

Year-end appeal starts soon.

We have 17 board members who have not yet given. The goal is to get 100 percent giving from the board because sharing that information with our investors is important and impressive.

We have auto-giving and there are multiple ways to give. A member of the executive committee handed over \$1,000 check for the Oldfield Endowment. Goal is to have \$30,000 in the account before the end of the conference.

VII. **Chair-Elect Report**

I am excited to move forward with this board. If you don't retain this seat, if you're not going to be on the board moving forward, please still stay engaged.

VIII. **Treasurer Report**

Association is looking good from a financial standpoint. The audits are, again, impressive. We'll finish out the year in a good place from an investment standpoint.

IX. **Adjourn as Association/Convene as Foundation**

Decision: Scheld motioned to adjourn as the Association and convene as the Foundation. Walker seconded. Motion passed.

a. **Chair Report**

Basic overview of the Endowment discussion that the group will have shortly.

b. **Treasurer Report**

RTDNF Scholarship investments are up 10% within the year, thanks to a conservative investment strategy. The Endowment account is up to \$28,694. Gin committed to a donation to help get the fund to \$30k and McGinley encouraged the full board to donate, reminding them all of company matches.

c. **New Business**

Tobia asked the board to approve a new scholarship with more information to come post-announcement.

Decision: Loren motioned that the group approve a new scholarship, Worsley seconded. Motion passes.

d. **Old Business**

1. **Oldfield Endowment Legal and Regulatory Matters**

The group has reviewed the Oldfield Endowment and would like to put forward documents that outline purpose and process, but would like to move those to the following meeting because of timing.

e. **Adjourn as Foundation/Convene as Association**

Decision: McGinley motioned to adjourn as the Foundation and reconvene as the Association. Walker seconded, no opposition. Motion passes.

X. **New Business**

a. **New Business**

Decision: Janice Gin moves to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Vince Duffy seconds the motion. Motion passes with no dissent. Dan Shelley may remain.

Decision: Loren Tobia moves to exit executive session. Janice Gin seconded the motion.

Motion passes with no dissent.

b. **Ethics Committee Guidelines**

1. **Covering Crime Guidelines**

Decision: Vince moved, Sheryl seconded that we accept the proposed covering crime guidelines. Motion passes with no dissent.

c. **Awards Committee Recommendations**

Item tabled until Saturday due to Kate McGarrity's schedule.

XI. **Old Business**

XII. **Group Photo!**

XIII. **Adjournment**

Decision: Tim Scheld moved to adjourn the meeting. Sheryl Worsley seconded the motion

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.